

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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R 181329Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0198

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0205

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR XF US QA

SUBJECT: BRIEFING FOR AMIR OF QATAR ON COM'S MEETING WITH
SECRETARY IN RIYADH

REFS: DOHA 175 AND 204.

1. SUMMARY: AMIR OF QATAR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BRIEFING ON SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH COMS. RE SETTLEMENT, FRESH FROM MEETING WITH SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AMIR WARNED AGAINST LEAVING SYRIANS OUT OF NEXT STEP, AND SAID HE AND OTHER ARABS, ALTHOUGH ENCOURAGED BY REPORTS OF SOME PROGRESS, ARE WAITING TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT MONTH. RE ENERGY, AMIR AGAIN DE- PLORED PUBLIC US INTERVENTION THREATS AND SAID PRODUCERS TOO WANT COOPERATION, NOT CONFRONTATION. KHALIFA RECOMMENDED SECRETARY VISIT GULF STATES TO GIVE US IMAGE NEEDED SHOT IN ARM. END SUMMARY

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2. ON FEB 18 I MET WITH AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN

HAMAD AL THANI, TO BRIEF HIM ON COM'S CONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY IN RIYADH. I OBSERVED THAT KHALIFA'S VIEWS ON STEP BY STEP APPROACH, CENTRALITY OF EGYPTIAN ROLE IN SETTLEMENT, AND NON-USEFULNESS OF RETURN TO GENEVA FORUM AS HE EXPRESSED THEM TO ME BEFORE COM'S MEETING (DOHA 175) GENERALLY PARALLELED THOSE OF SECRETARY. I INFORMED AMIR THAT SECRETARY VIEWED HIS LATEST CONVERSATIONS IN CONFRONTATION COUNTRIES AS FIRST OF TWO STAGES IN HIS LATEST EFFORT TOWARDS FURTHER STEP TOWARDS MID EAST SETTLEMENT. I TOLD AMIR THAT SECRETARY WAS "MODERATELY OPTIMISTIC" THAT GROUNDWORK HAD BEEN LAID FOR NEXT INTERIM STEP BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, AND THAT HE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO AREA NEXT MONTH TO PURSUE POSSIBLE ISRAELI/EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT ON FURTHER WITHDRAWAL STAGE. I EMPHASIZED THAT ALTHOUGH SECRETARY HAD PERCEIVED SOME PROGRESS ON HIS TRIP,

THAT ROAD AHEAD WAS LONG AND HARD; NEXT ISRAEL/EGYPT PHASE WOULD BE DIFFICULT, BUT IN COMPARISON SYRIA/ISRAEL MOVEMENT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. RE POSSIBLE RETURN TO GENEVA, I SAID IT US VIEW THAT THIS WOULD PRODUCE STALEMATE, ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT PRECLUDE RETURNING TO GENEVA AT SOME STAGE OF PEACE PROCESS. I EXPLAINED THAT STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WAS SEEN BY SECRETARY AS PROCESS MOST COMPATIBLE WITH EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF ARABS, ISRAELIS AND US.

3. THE AMIR, WHO HAD JUST FINISHED MEETING WITH VISITING SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, STRESSED NECESSITY OF FINDING WAY TO INCLUDE SYRIA IN NEXT WITHDRAWAL PHASE (DOHA 204). HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD RATIONALE FOR STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH IN CONTEXT OF WEAKNESS OF RABIN GOVERNMENT AND INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES FACED BY ADMINISTRATION. HE REMARKED, HOWEVER, THAT US PUBLIC WOULD SOME DAY WAKE UP TO THE COST OF ZIONIST INFLUENCE IN THE US, AND BACKLASH COULD BE UNPLEASANT. AMIR SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVING SOME THOUGHT TO SUGGESTING THAT THE ARABS SEND ONE OF THEIR MORE ARTICULATE SPOKESMEN TO SET UP A PERMANENT LOBBY AT US CONGRESS. HE MENTIONED BENEFITS OF CONGRESSMEN VISITING AREA AND NOTED SENATOR PERCY'S TOUR IN THIS REGARD. RE US SUPPORT FOR EGYPT, AMIR DESCRIBED \$80 MILLION IN AID AS A PITTANCE. ON RETURN TO GENEVA, HE INSISTED THAT THAT FORUM SHOULD ONLY BE USED TO FORMALIZE ALREADY CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS.

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4. ON MID EAST SETTLEMENT PROSPECTS IN GENERAL, AMIR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SECRETARY'S ASSESSMENT, AND HIS PLEASURE THAT I HAD BEEN ABLE TO CONVEY SECRETARY'S VIEWS FIRSTHAND. HE SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY SECRETARY'S GUARDED OPTIMISM, BUT LIKE ALL OTHER ARABS HE WOULD BE WAITING TO SEE RESULTS OF PHASE TWO NEXT MONTH.

5. RE ENERGY PROBLEM, AMIR ASKED WHETHER QUESTION OF US STATEMENTS THREATENING INTERVENTION IN AREA HAD BEEN RAISED AT COM'S MEETING AND, IF SO, WHAT SECRETARY HAD HAD TO SAY. I SAID SUBJECT HAD INDEED BEEN RAISED, AND SECRETARY HAD QUESTIONED FUROR OVER HIS REMARKS WHICH HAD SIMPLY MEANT THAT US WOULD ACT TO PROTECT VITAL INTERESTS, ALTHOUGH THREAT TO THESE NOT RPT NOT FORESEEN OVER ENERGY SUPPLY. AMIR RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS UNDERSTOOD, BUT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PUBLICLY STATED. I ASSURED AMIR THAT IT WAS US INTENTION THAT ITS ENERGY POLICY BE COOPERATIVE, NOT CONFRONTATIVE, AND HE REPLIED THAT QATAR AND OTHER PRODUCERS TOOK SAME VIEW.

6. AMIR ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SECRETARY VISITING GULF STATES WHEN HE COMES TO AREA AGAIN NEXT MONTH. I TOLD HIM THAT ALTHOUGH SECRETARY HAS WISHED FOR A LONG TIME TO TOUR AREA, HE COULD MAKE NO DEFINITE COMMITMENTS. AMIR EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THIS, NOTING SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON MORE IMPORTANT SETTLEMENT PROGRESS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IT NOT RPT NOT FOR GRATIFICATION OF HIMSELF OR OTHER GULF RULERS THAT HE HAD RECOMMENDED AREA VISIT, BUT BECAUSE IT WOULD GIVE US IMAGE NEEDED SHOT IN THE ARM.
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